Title: Old, obscure Sikh websites - defunct, abandoned, or still online

Author: Reddit user the_analects

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Sub-reddit: r/Sikh

Post body:

This is my third attempt at posting this here. Reddit removed the first post automatically, probably due to the high prevalence of hotlinks in my original post. An attempt was made to remove any hotlinks to URLs, which actually works better as you won't accidentally click on any URLs, so you will have to copy and paste them yourself if you want to view the sites for yourself (see the warning for why this is a good thing). The remaining few hotlinks in this post would have taken you to Reddit or Wikipedia pages which are safe to click on. However, Reddit automatically removed that post too (fortunately my account is still intact), so I will have to link the rest of the post off-site.

Background

Over the last several months, I came across some Sikh websites that were only accessible through the Internet Archive. My personal opinion of mainstream online Sikh sources, when I started this search, was that they fell short of being adequate enough to explain Sikhi to a wider audience. Additionally, my knowledge of Punjabi was nowhere near good enough to read old texts. Hence, I thought it was worth the time to look into these sources and try to see if there's any additional information that was worth knowing. To my surprise, many of the older Sikh websites had information that was different to what was mainstream. Furthermore, this information was more extensive than I had anticipated. It showed a different side to online Sikhi back then which we don't really see today.

Earlier this month, I noticed that some Sikh websites that still exist have domains which are up for renewal in a few months from now. This had me thinking: how much longer will these sites exist? I decided to take a few weeks to gather up whatever sites I had come across, comb through them and archive their pages. Unfortunately, not all such Sikh sites are fully extant (including one old Sikh blog which got deleted sometime this month), and the vast amount of obscure Sikh websites I uncovered meant that I could not get around to all of them (I prioritized sites that were still extant). The end result of these efforts is this entire post, which I am proud to display to you now.

Today, I unveil these sites that I had come across (and even more that I have yet to check) so that a newer generation can see them for themselves. The primary aims of unveiling these sites are to expose to modern audiences what online Sikh discourse looked like back then, to present previously obscure but perhaps useful information on Sikhi to a modern audience, and to encourage modern audiences to be far more conscious about preserving old Sikh websites, which are a hidden and

obscure, but still highly valuable part of our online heritage - tangible proof that online Sikhi was as lively and as dynamic back then as it is now (or perhaps, even more so than now).

Recently, I decided to speed up this project of mine so that I could move onto other small projects that I would like to get around to. Therefore, many of the sites you will see below have short descriptions (or even no descriptions at all), and these descriptions will be subpar to you. Largely, this is the result of me deciding to expedite the writing of this post, so that I can move on. I hope to revisit this project in its entirety in a few months.

After this paragraph is the entire list of Sikh sites I have uncovered; there is no conclusion section at the end. First I start with a few websites that may go defunct soon, then I move onto websites that are truly obscure, of which most are wiped out, and then I have a long list of websites that I haven't been able to explore altogether. Much of this list has been sourced from link-banks from the first few obscure websites I looked through. I have tried to remove links to any sites which appear to be well-known (for example, 3HO-run Sikhnet appeared in one of those link-banks, but not on this list for obvious reasons), but some sites may have slipped through at the end. If you would like to contribute links to unknown Sikh websites that don't appear on this list, please feel free to reply to this post.

Vahiguru Ji Ka Khalsa - Vahiguru Ji Ki Fateh

WARNING

Please exercise caution when visiting any of these sites, especially outside of Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, as you don't know if they are hijacked or not. I strongly recommend not visiting these sites at all outside of Wayback Machine, but if you really want to, you should use something like NoScript, which is cumbersome for the average user because it breaks a lot of modern sites, but will stop any execution of non-whitelisted JavaScript code. I should also warn you that a few 1990s Sikh websites will auto-download certain files.

Link to the rest of the post

Part 1: https://pastebin.com/7uvD5b0L (you just read through this part, you don't need to click on it)

Part 2: https://pastebin.com/8dPpASzn

Part 3: (a) https://pastebin.com/hheKPhKz (b) https://pastebin.com/UiCnY0vj (c) https://pastebin.com/9LkjBDvB

Part 4: https://pastebin.com/UptQsBPC

Some of the more immediately informative sites can be found in part 3b.

Comments:

Antique-Party7587 2 points 6 months ago

Really cool that you took out time to document all this! What do you propose should be done with all this research? Would it help to make it all more accessible? Like a website that serves as a central space for all Sikh related websites?

[–]the_analects[S] 1 point 6 months ago

That wouldn't be a bad idea, yes. Preserving the original contents for current and future generations of Sikhs to look through. Also, I noticed that some sites that are still extant are not fully crawled by Wayback Machine. We can't take their continued existence for granted (one of these sites I came across got deleted after just last month and is on the verge of being lost forever). I think some kind of site-map for these sites while they still exist would be a helpful addition to such a central space (but building those out takes time).